

Frank B. Brandegee

Memorial Addresses

DELIVERED IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN MEMORY OF FRANK B. BRANDEGEE

LATE A SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT



Sixty-Eighth Congress

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

JANUARY 19, 1925 FEBRUARY 15, 1925



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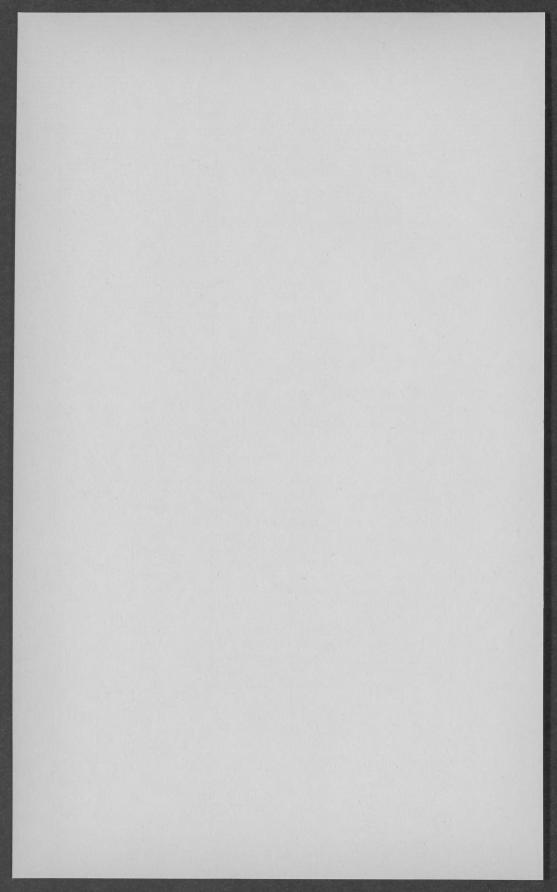
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Proceedings
in the
United States Senate



Frank B. Brandegee

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Proceedings in the United States Senate

Monday, December 1, 1924.

The first Monday of December being the day prescribed by the Constitution of the United States for the annual meeting of Congress, the second session of the Sixty-eighth Congress commenced this day.

The Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore (Albert B. Cummins, a Senator from the State of Iowa) called the Senate to order at 12 o'clock noon.

The Chaplain, Rev. J. J. Muir, D. D., of the city of Washington, offered the following prayer:

Our Father and our God, we come together to-day to enter upon the duties of high responsibility. As we look back over the past month we recognize the sadness that has shadowed and the grief that has come and the loneliness experienced because of the presence of death in connection with this body. We pray for richest consolations upon those who mourn.

Grant unto each one in connection with his duty such a sense of its dignity, such a conception of its large outlook, that there may be given to each wisdom from above and guidance in every matter of administration. The Lord our God be with the President, recognizing in him the authority by which he is surrounded. Let Thy blessing be constantly upon our Nation, and may it be exalted in righteousness. We humbly ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

Mr. McLean. Mr. President, I submit a resolution, relative to the death of my late colleague, Mr. Brandegee. I ask to have the resolution read by the Secretary, and immediately considered.

The resolution (S. Res. 263) was read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep regret and profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. Walsh of Massachusetts. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of our deceased colleague, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 12 o'clock and 21 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, December 2, 1924, at 12 o'clock meridian.

Tuesday, December 2, 1924.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Chaffee, one of its clerks, communicated to the Senate the resolutions of the House unanimously adopted as a tribute to the memory of the Hon. Frank Bosworth Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

The President pro tempore laid before the Senate a resolution adopted by the Court of Common Council of the City of Hartford, Conn., in honor of the life, character, and public service of Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut, which was ordered to lie on the table.

WEDNESDAY, December 17, 1924.

Mr. Walsh of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the adoption of the order which I send to the desk.

The order was read, considered, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Ordered, That Monday, January 19, 1925, at 3 p. m., all pending business be set aside and the Senate proceed with memorial addresses on the life, character, and public services of the Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Monday, January 19, 1925.

The Chaplain, Rev. J. J. Muir, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Our Father, ever the same in Thy tenderness, in Thy loving symathy and the constancy of Thy care. We come this morning recognizing Thy goodness to us. Thou art indeed a God that never fails in promises, though we, alas, too often forget the hand that is guiding our path. Hear us to-day, we beseech of Thee. Grant unto us the guidance of Thy grace and enable us to fulfill every obligation as in Thy sight and for Thy glory. We humbly ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

The President pro tempore. Pursuant to an order heretofore entered, the Senate will now lay aside its pending business and proceed with memorial addresses upon the life, character, and services of Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Mr. McLean. Mr. President, I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. Pepper in the chair). The resolutions will be read.

The principal legislative clerk read the resolutions (S. Res. 307) as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the business of the Senate be now suspended to enable his associates to pay tribute to his high character and distinguished public services.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Address by Senator McLean

Of Connecticut

Mr. President: While anticipating this opportunity to give expression to an appreciation of my former distinguished colleague I have taken note of the necrology of this body since I have been a Member and of some of the things said about dead Senators by their living contemporaries. I found the Record rather startling in its length. Ninety-four men who have occupied seats in the Senate have died since May 4, 1911, and 36 of them were Members of the Senate when the call came. I also found the Record full of eloquent praise and pathos, but I found nothing that struck

just the key that I wanted.

Senator Brandegee, like his colleagues and predecessors, was an able Senator, but he was different. He had flashes of genius rather hard to Those who had the good fortune to be present when he was in the mood to "turn on the light" will understand what I mean. Call it what you will, it pierced the flesh and blood of indirection with X-ray precision. It was in the play of this gift that he was best understood and greatly admired by his friends and easily misunderstood and censured by others. Doctor Wiggam would tell us that the possession of this gift was entirely due to the fact that he was the son of his parents. He had a good New England mother. His father's mother was directly descended from John Rogers, who was the founder in 1674 of the religious sect known as the Rogerenes or Rogerene Quakers or Rogerene Baptists. This society had its birth in New London, Conn., and historians tell us that John Rogers and his son John were men of great strength and courage in their defense of religious and political liberty. They suffered many indignities in the way of fines and imprisonments, but remained steadfast in the faith, and their influence contributed much to the forces which finally succeeding in writing the separation of church and state into the constitution of Connecticut.

Senator Brandegee's father was a brilliant lawyer and wit. His word portraits and miniatures are still cherished as superior in drawing and color to anything of the kind ever produced in Connecticut. Moreover, they were always likenesses, never pictures, and his son's skill in this regard was equal to that of his father when he felt inclined to reveal it. When it was known that Augustus Brandegee was to argue a case in court or make a political speech or talk anywhere upon any subject employment in that vicinity ceased for the time being.

Senator Brandegee's youth was nourished with fine traditions and highly cultured environment. Nevertheless he was a real boy, slow to wrath and loving peace, but quick to avoid entangling alliances that would defeat the ends of his righteous indignation. He loved the woods and its wild life. He loved to tame its resident furbearing animals. At one time his collection of pets included a very affectionate but utterly

untrustworthy raccoon. His success in saving his forest friend from the capital punishment frequently decreed by the senior Brandegee promised the son phenomenal success at the bar as a defender of sinners by heredity.

Senator Brandegee was a good scholar. He was one of the best oars in the Yale crew and one of the best "warblers" in the glee club. He was graduated in 1885, and began the practice of law in New London, his native city. In 1897 he represented New London in the Connecticut General Assembly. He was reelected the following year, and in 1899 was chosen speaker, in which position he gained an enviable reputation as an impartial and well-informed parliamentarian.

We roomed together in Hartford the winter he was speaker, and incidentally we discussed and solved all of the important political and social problems of the day. We greatly enjoyed doing this. He half a recluse and I two-thirds of one, I think neither of us could understand why either of us liked politics, but we both knew that we did like it and that was sufficient for the day. We were both bachelors at that time. He being one of the outstanding eligibles of the State, I asked him why he did not marry. His reply was, "Young frogs would best keep out of wells." It seems that the advancing years did not alter his views with regard to this important matter.

We both liked to hold office and we felt that in gratifying this ambition we were following Cardinal Wolsey's advice in so far as it designated one's country as a primary end to be aimed at by those who would promote a comfortable old age. All in due time the hour arrived when both of us wanted the same office at one and the same time, and the usual consequences followed. We became active political antagonists. I won the governorship in 1900; he defeated me for the Senate in 1905, being promoted to this body from the House, to which he was elected in 1902. When we both became Members of the Senate in 1911 the past was soon forgotten. There was nothing to forgive.

Senator Brandegee at that time was chairman of the Committee on Forest Reservations and Protection of Game. He was appointed a member of the Committee on Interoceanic Canals in December, 1907, and served until March 4, 1913. It was during the years that he was chairman of the committees indicated that the Appalachian Mountain Reservation was established and the Panama Canal was under construction. In his service on these committees he was recognized as a man always sure of his present and accurate in his history, and his opinions were sought upon current legislative matters, because they were worth having.

When the controversy over the League of Nations came to the front Senator Brandegee revealed his strength and skill as an honorable foe. This is not the place or time to assert the wisdom or the unwisdom of his views upon this all-important subject, but this is the time when it can be said and said with emphasis that no Member of this body contributed more than he to the forces which prevented the ratification of the treaty

of Versailles. His speeches in the Senate against the league were comparatively few and brief, but they pointed the way to gun-spiking and other legitimate strategic operations against the enemy that were Napoleonic in their results. On the floor of the Senate and elsewhere he was prone to ask questions which must be answered and which, if answered correctly by his opponents, were likely to place troublesome obstacles in the way of an

orderly retreat.

I favored the League of Nations with the Lodge reservations. Senator Brandegee was a member of the committee having this subject in charge, and knowing his intense anxiety to prevent our entrance into the league in any form I early took occasion to inform him of my intended action. In our very first discussion of the matter he revealed a mind as generous to others as it was keen in its own defense. Unbending and emphatic himself, he expected and admired like qualities in those who held contrary views, provided they were honestly and consistently entertained. In defense of what he believed to be right his courage was unlimited. The greater the danger the stronger his arm. In this controversy he won, and I think deserved the reputation of being a very hard man to deceive.

He loved the word "no." He was a conservative and he admitted it. He wanted to save and perpetuate the institutions and customs which the American people had acquired and approved in long centuries of conscientious and intelligent experiment. As he put it, he did not believe in wading in large pools of water where he could not see the bottom; he did not believe in diving into mud puddles for the purpose of rescuing reflected stars. Let me quote a characteristic sentence from a speech he made in Connecticut in 1920:

More than two centuries have passed since our forefathers dedicated themselves to the principle that ours shall be a government of law and not of men. During the stupendous clashes of the World War that principle, the foundation of a free government, has been ruthlessly violated. It must be reestablished and forever maintained.

He did not claim to be a prophet, but I shall now quote two or three sentences from his speeches in the Senate, delivered more than four years ago, which indicate a very clear vision of what a large majority of the American people approved in the autumn of 1924. He said in 1919:

I would not vote for a league of nations based upon the principle that this league is based upon with all the reservations that the wit of man could devise. I would cheerfully and happily vote for any association of nations designed to promote the development of international law, for an international court composed of men of recognized learning in international law.

A little later on the floor of the Senate he said:

Mr. President, whatever can be done to promote international good will and peace and order in the world, to administer justice and equity according to the methods of civilized tribunals, will have my most hearty support; but I never will vote for this covenant or treaty which is based upon force utterly unrelated to justice or equity.

During his service in Congress he saw many nominally great men come and go, but he agreed with Ethel Boileau that one must avoid public places and his own mirror if he would see a truly great man. Certainly his own eyes were never dazzled by the shining armor of a little brief authority.

He came into this world about the time that oratory in the pure began to go out of style in Connecticut. He felt that fine oratory required fine acting, and to a man of his mental slant and probity experiments in this line were impossible. Nevertheless, he greatly enjoyed a fine oration. He also enjoyed fine acting. Seldom indulging in long speeches himself, he stoutly defended unlimited debate in the Senate as the Nation's first and oft-times only line of defense against impulsive and plausible legislative vagaries and mistakes.

In his opinion human nature and all the other varieties were very closely tied to their mothers' apron strings; not that he neglected duty or opportunity, but through his philosophy ran a somber thread of fatalism which he was inclined to follow for better or worse and which at times led him into a state of mental and physical indifference and held him back from attempting leaderships that his abilities warranted. He believed that the world was growing better and would continue to grow better, and that as a rule its progress was as likely to be hindered as accelerated by the lawmaker. If true greatness shuns the plaudits of the crowd, Senator Brandegee was truly great. Self-advertising was to him the unpardonable sin. I once heard a Republican leader tell him that he must return to Connecticut and fix his fences or he might not be renominated. His reply was, "I will not do it; if they do not want me, they need not have me."

The old eastern proverb, "To know the truth, and speak it is well; to know the truth and speak about date stones is better," did not appeal to him. He said what he felt like saying, and sometimes he said it in a way that cost him friends he could and should have kept. Yet he was as free from subtlety and malice as the traditional bass drummer in a Salvation Army.

Apparently cold and unsympathetic in the morning, he would be found collecting a purse for some unfortunate employee of the Capitol in the afternoon. One day he met me in the Senate cloakroom and said, "Old Joe out there in the wash room is sick; got to have an operation, poor devil; I am going to raise him some money." Why was it that poor Joe, the least amongst us, selected Senator Brandegee as the one who would give him the cup of cold water he must have; and why was it that this man who did such things for the poor and lowly could find neither justice nor charity for himself in his hour of supreme need?

In the winter of 1922 he sent for me to tell me he was going to resign, and it was with difficulty that he was persuaded to change his mind. He was at that time suffering considerable physical and mental distress. In the following spring he seemed to be himself again. He had purchased a farm in Maryland, and, as is usual with such investments, other troubles were temporarily forgotten. On the 16th of August last I met him in New York. His appearance startled me, and I

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could easily see that Brandegee, the Senator and statesman, the friend of truth and the foe of indirection, had gone never to return. The news that he had voluntarily shut from his eyes the torturing shadows that could not be lifted by time or friends hardly surprised me. I could see then that in the dark soil of solitude the cruel thorns of disease and introspection had ended a career which otherwise would have ripened into a more abundant harvest of happy years and high achievement.

He died on the 14th of October, 1924. He served his State and Nation for more than a quarter of a century, and he served them with courage and distinction. He was faithful to American ideals and was always found supporting those policies which have guided our national progress and strengthened our constitutional Government. It is my considered judgment that for sheer brain force and clear thinking, for loyalty to country and conviction, his superior has not represented Connecticut in the United States Senate since the days of Trumbull and Sherman.

Address by Senator Overman

Of North Carolina

Mr. President: As his friend and committee associate, I am glad of the opportunity afforded me of paying my humble and simple tribute to the memory of Senator Frank B. Brandegee.

He came to Congress as an experienced and able lawyer, and splendidly equipped as a legislator. He had previously served in the legislature of his State as a representative, and later as speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. He also served three terms in Congress, and was elected to the United States Senate in 1905. It did not take long for his colleagues to realize that the State of Connecticut had sent to this body a highly competent man and a worthy successor to Senator Orville H. Platt, who had recently died. He very soon attained a prominent place among his colleagues, and was recognized as one of his party leaders along with Senators Lodge, Gallinger, Smoot, Curtis, and others. He was looked upon as an able and safe counselor.

He was dignified, without being presumptuous; brilliant, big hearted, and affable, without being familiar. When a Member of the House of Representatives we lived at the same hotel, and became warm friends long before his election to the Senate. I learned to admire him for his great dignity and quiet, unassuming nature. After his election to this body we were associated together on several

committees, and were often thrown together on little journeys out on the country roads among the hills, where I came to know his love for the sunshine, the trees, the flowers, and all the beautiful things of nature. He was also a great lover of art, and quite a connoisseur, as was shown by the splendid collection found in his bachelor apartment in this city, where he had accumulated many valuable paintings, some by very noted old masters. He was also interested in beautiful furniture and bric-a-brac, of which he had many rare and valuable pieces.

I never allowed my party prejudices to interfere with my personal friendship. Although naturally we differed widely on politics and many legislative matters, we were frequently in hearty accord on many questions. We often discussed and agreed on the fundamental principles of our Government. He loved the Constitution, and frequently agreed with me that we, without regard to party, on both sides of the Chamber, were wandering far astray from the great principles established by our forefathers, and would remark that he and others of his party friends, many of whom agreed with him, would see the time when they and we would have to battle together to preserve the rights and privileges of the States and for the local self-government guaranteed by the Constitution; that there was a tendency toward centralization, and that we were fast building up great bureaucracies here in the city of Washington until they had almost become a menace.

He despised all sham and hypocrisy. He was interested in all the great questions affecting his country. He seldom engaged in debates; but whenever a question was up which he considered of vital importance he had something to say, and expressed his views in a clear and logical way, and frequently with much humor. He was admired and respected by all in the Senate, no matter how much they differed with him.

He was a student of and thoroughly familiar with the questions affecting our foreign relations, which fact was recognized by his party associates, who placed him on the Foreign Relations Committee. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee he showed rare ability and tact in handling the great questions that came up from time to time for consideration. His great ability as a lawyer and his familiarity with parliamentary practice were of much service to him.

Senator Brandegee would have been recognized as a leader in any parliamentary body in the world. He was not a colossal figure in the public eye, and yet he was by no means commonplace; and no one would place him in a mediocre class. While he was not what might be called the idol of his people, they felt proud of him. They believed in him as an honest, courageous, and incorruptible statesman, who served his State faithfully and loyally. The great State of Connecticut never had in this body a more able, faithful, and loyal Senator than was Senator Brandegee. Peace to his ashes!

Address by Senator Moses

Of New Hampshire

Mr. President: Few men in our generation who have sat with us could count themselves more clearly marked out for public life than the Senator from Connecticut, whose untimely and tragic death is the occasion for these exercises. At the time of his birth his father was a Member of Congress, an intimate of Lincoln, and the household necessarily ebbed and flowed with the great tides which swept the country in the closing days of the Civil War and through the period of reconstruction.

The son followed closely in his father's footsteps in all respects. Both were graduates of Yale; both studied law; both were admitted to the bar, and both practiced, for a time in partnership, in the county and city where each was born; both served in the State legislature; each was elected speaker of the house of representatives; each served in the popular branch of Congress; and the son died a Senator of the United States.

Senator Brandegee was but three years from college when he received his first political office as delegate to the Republican National Convention; and from that time to his death he continuously served both his State and his country.

The qualities which he brought here gave him distinction from the first. His personality was most pleasing and his mental attainments were of the highest order. He possessed exceptional qualities as an effective public speaker, and from whatever problem to which he applied his mind he was always sure to bring out the utmost of detailed knowledge.

In his party organization he equally came to commanding positions of power; and in brief, Mr. President, it may be said that his whole life went forward with orderly progress from one point of vantage to another, and all gained by intrinsic merit.

He had, to a degree which I have rarely seen, the quality of power of concentrated absorption upon whatever task confronted him; and both in the committee room and in private conference, no less than here, it was a delight to observe the trained working of his efficient mind as it seized upon the essentials of a document or a proposal and compacted its summary into pungent and graphic expression.

His convictions were always based upon reasoned judgments and in them he was unwavering. He believed without dilution in the doctrines of the fathers of the Republic and he gave battle for his beliefs with a courage and tenacity worthy of the Huguenot strain that was in him.

He had reached the chief places among us, Mr. President, and there was but one further distinction which continuance here might have brought to him. But, long before he had reached the dread decision of his life, some of us knew that he was jaded and even disillusioned in the career which he

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had followed for so long. This heightens the sadness of our reflections upon him, but as we think of his brilliant incisiveness and of the clarity and directness of his thought and the courage and the strength of his decisions we must rank him with those who—

Beyond the loom of the last lone star, through open darkness hurled,

Further than rebel comet dared or hiving star-swarm swirled,

Sits he with those that praise our God for that they served His world.

His was a life of service, Mr. President, and in it he found no master but his conscience, no mistress but his country, and he followed both with devoted loyalty to the tragic end of his days.

Address by Senator Bingham

Of Connecticut

Mr. President: As the successor of Senator Brandegee and in accordance with the timehonored custom of the Senate, it becomes my melancholy privilege to speak briefly in commemoration of his life, character, and public services. It is hard for me to appreciate that I speak here not merely as the friend and admirer of Frank Brandegee, but actually as his successor. He had for so many years represented Connecticut in this body and, apparently, he had so many years still to serve, that it is difficult for me to adjust myself to the fact that Connecticut can no longer count on his skill and his wisdom and his fearless honesty. As my colleague, the senior Senator from Connecticut, has so eloquently stated, Senator Brandegee came of distinguished ancestors and worthily upheld the splendid tradition of public service which had been left to him by his father. Through his Brewster ancestry he was related to me, and I always had the most sincere and affectionate regard for his sterling qualities, his wit, and his old-fashioned Yankee common sense.

By an unusual coincidence Senator Brandegee's election to the House of Representatives, as well as his election to the Senate, were both occasioned by the death of his immediate predecessors. Born in 1864 in New London, Conn., going to Yale from the famous old Bulkeley High School in New London, taking honors of various kinds in college.

a popular member of numerous organizations, including the junior promenade committee and the varsity glee club, graduating in 1885, he was admitted to the bar in 1888, and immediately entered politics as a member of the Connecticut General Assembly and a delegate to the Republican National Convention of that year. The next year he became corporation counsel for New London, a position he held almost continuously until he was elected to Congress.

His predecessor in the House of Representatives was the Hon. Charles Addison Russell, of Killingly, Conn., who died in October, 1902. Mr. Brandegee was immediately elected to fill the unexpired term in the Fifty-seventh Congress and was reelected to the two following Congresses. His first speech in the House was in commemoration of the life and character of his predecessor, whom he described as having—

more than the usual qualifications for the responsible position.

He added with clear insight that-

these attainments, in connection with his winning personality, his cheerful disposition, his indomitable perseverance, and his innate kindness of heart * * * foreshadowed his distinguished career.

That which a man praises in another he is likely to desire for himself. Consequently those Senators who knew Senator Brandegee best will not be surprised that in speaking of his predecessor he should have admired—

his fidelity to duty, his unflagging industry, his uniform courtesy, his modest bearing.

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When the new Congressman added that his predecessor was—

honest, industrious, capable, unassuming, and conscientious—

And that-

he devoted his whole time, mind, and strength to the service of the State—

you will agree with me that he was setting up for himself certain ideals which his record here shows that he achieved. I might even continue the parallel further, for he said of his predecessor, as it is proper to say of him, that he was—

the trusted comrade, associate, and friend of legislators, orators, and statesmen. He made no claim to oratory but he was endowed instead, and in a large measure, with what has not inaptly been called "the genius of common sense." He discriminated as it were with unerring instinct between the false and the true. He saw and knew men and measures in their proper relations and proportions, and estimated them at their real, rather than their pretended values. was a clear thinker and a plain talker. was not given to much speaking, but whenever he desired to express his views he did so with that purity of diction and in that simplicity of manner which if not eloquence itself is close kin to it. * * * He had an aversion to all sensationalism and display. He was utterly devoid of * * * His disposition all guile, hypocrisy, and cant. was genial, kindly. His manner was cordial, without being demonstrative; he was dignified but not distant, reserved but not reticent, unassuming but not diffident. He was absolutely and wholly honest, frank, and candid in thought, word, and deed.

These phrases with which Frank Brandegee characterized his predecessor are all directly applicable to him. It would almost seem as though he

had deliberately tried to follow in the footsteps of Colonel Russell. However, since there was nothing affected about Senator Brandegee's nature, it is probably more accurate to say that these things which he so admired in another were the very ones for which he was conscientiously striving himself.

In April, 1905, there died that "old-fashioned Senator," Orville H. Platt, of Connecticut, whose life was for so many years unselfishly devoted to the public service. For 26 years he had been in the Senate. For him the State and the Nation had the highest regard. To fill the vacancy caused by his demise, Mr. Brandegee, on May 9, 1905, was elected United States Senator by the Connecticut Legislature. From then he served continuously in the Senate until his tragic and unforeseen death on October 14, 1924.

In length of service only three from Connecticut surpassed him: Senator Joseph R. Hawley, whose 28 years of public life at Washington stand unequaled for Connecticut; Senator Orville H. Platt, of whose 26 years in Washington I have just spoken; and the Hon. Samuel W. Dana, of Middletown, who served Connecticut for 25 years in Washington. To-day there are but five Senators in the Senate who were here when Senator Brandegee first took his seat—the senior Senator from Wyoming, both Senators from North Carolina, the senior Senator from Utah, and the senior Senator from Wisconsin. They will remember that the first speech made by Frank Brandegee before the Senate was on the occasion of the memorial services in honor of the death of Senator Orville H. Platt. It is significant that at that time Senator Brandegee should have used these words:

No one has ever solved the riddle of existence. No man ever will solve it. * * * From that time in the mists of antiquity when mankind assumed the upright attitude and looked the heavens in the face we have wondered from whence we came and whither we go. * * * In so far as human knowledge and human investigation are concerned we end where we began. * * * The two momentous words of human speech are "whence" and "whither." The brain will never answer these questions. The human heart may. We know very little. We feel very much. * * * We distinguish life from death, but are in gross ignorance of the cause, the origin, or the termination of both. Among mysteries one inexplicable thing is no more remarkable than another. One may affect our emotions more than another, but fundamentally all are equally incomprehensible.

Was there something prophetic in these words of Senator Brandegee? Was he even at that time engaged like Hamlet in endeavoring to solve the riddle "to be or not to be"? This we do know, that his life and his actions were impelled by careful thought. Of him it never could be said that he acted without thinking.

It is characteristic of him that in his address on the life and character of Senator Platt he remarked on the fact that the people of Connecticut had accredited him—

as their ambassador to this great conclave of the representatives of the sovereign States of this Republic.

In calling attention to the 26 years during which Senator Platt had sat in this Chamber he said he had fearlessly, faithfully, and nobly discharged

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that trust. He stated that in his opinion that was the highest encomium that can be pronounced.

The Senator continued—

There is not engraved upon bronze nor carved in marble in the Valley of the Nile or of the Tigris or of the Euphrates or of the Ganges, nor in the Pantheons of Rome, Carthage, or Greece, an epitaph of achievement fraught with greater blessing to humanity than a quarter of a century of able, courageous, and conscientious work in this great parliamentary body.

He called attention to the fact that Senator Platt had "consecrated one-third of his entire life to this lofty ministry." The same is virtually true of his own life.

Again, in his praise of Senator Platt, his predecessor in the Senate, he uses phrases which, as all who know him will agree with me, are equally appropriate at this time in connection with my predecessor.

He was no theorist. He was not a doctrinaire. He had none of the traits of the visionary or the mystic. He dreamed no dreams and he pursued no chimeras. He insisted upon the facts * * *. To those who saw him for the first time his countenance was apt to convey a suggestion of austerity. But this effect was relieved by the saving grace of a delicious sense of humor and an inimitable twinkle of the eye. * * * He was patient, industrious, kindly, cautious, and sound. He was preeminently safe and sane. His judgment was excellent and his gift of common sense approached to genius.

Here again we note his admiration for his gift of common sense. So far as history has recorded their characteristics we know that Connecticut Yankees have always admired what is known as "common sense." I once had a professor in college who tried to teach us that common sense was nonsense, but he did not make much impression on the Connecticut Yankees in his class, and was apparently more appreciated in some foreign countries than he was in his own.

It is also interesting to find Senator Brandegee praising his predecessor in the Senate for carefully weighing every phase of a question, for discriminating with unerring precision between the vital principles upon which a correct solution depends and the irrelevant matters which sometimes confuse their minds. Of his predecessor he said:

He despised shams, hypocrisy, and pretense. He was straightforward, sincere, and reliable. He was a man of sterling integrity, and was as honest with himself as with his fellows. It was as impossible to deceive him as it was for him to attempt to deceive others * * *. He always dared to act as he believed. He never compromised with expediency.

The same was true of Senator Brandegee. The popularity or unpopularity of a measure made little difference to him.

He believed in the old-fashioned Connecticut theory of representative government. From earliest times in Connecticut the leaders of the colony expressed their faith in a free, representative government. They expected their Representatives to apply themselves to the work in hand, and with the knowledge so derived to make such decisions as seemed best, without any attempt to refer these particular decisions back to the electors for them to vote on measures with which they could only be imperfectly informed. Should the electors conclude that their Representatives had not used good judgment, they were always free to send others in their places. This was the attitude taken by Senator Brandegee.

In recent years he frequently regretted that it was impossible for him to enjoy more outdoor life. In one of the last conversations I had with him in his office in this building he gave voice to his weariness and the confining nature of his duties. Yet this never led him to neglect his duties as long as he lived. Those of the Senators who were here in July, 1912, during the debate over the Panama Canal tolls, will remember that he used the words "I have done what I thought was my duty." That was characteristic of his whole life. What he said on the floor of the Senate was not said "with any idea of trying to make any Senator come to my [his] opinion about any of these things," but because he thought it was his duty to state very briefly and informally the convictions "he had come to without attempting to convert anybody."

Mr. President, such was my admiration for my predecessor that it is difficult for me to find words in which to express it properly. In his death Connecticut has lost one of her ablest sons and the Nation one of her most fearless statesmen. He gave up his life to the study of public questions and devoted the best that was in him to the public service. That service was marked by intelligence, patriotism, and disinterestedness. It is through

such service that America advances.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

Mr. President, I ask for the adoption of the resolutions submitted by my colleague.

The President pro tempore. The question is upon agreeing to the resolutions submitted by the senior Senator from Connecticut [Mr. McLean].

The resolutions were unanimously agreed to.

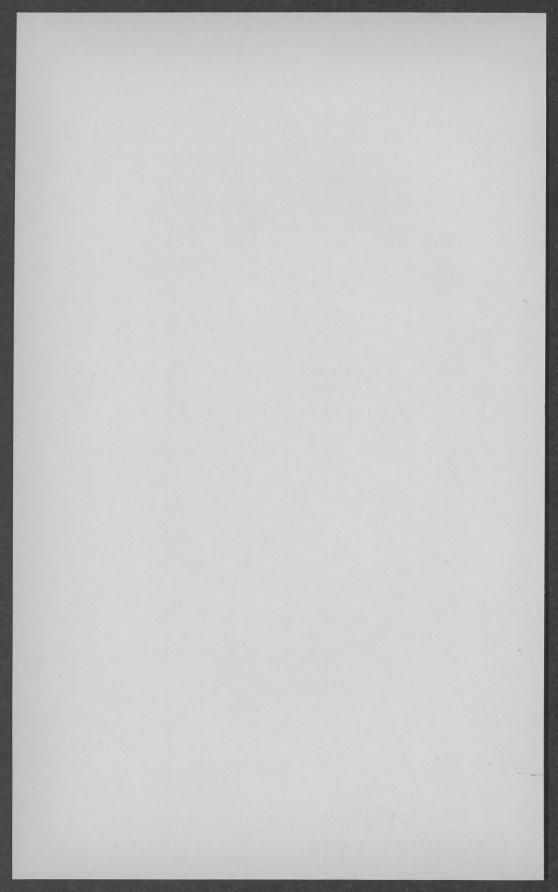
Mr. Metcalf. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and the Senate (at 7 o'clock p. m.) adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, January 20, 1925, at 12 o'clock meridian.

Monday, February 16, 1925.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Farrell, its enrolling clerk, communicated to the Senate the resolutions of the House adopted as a tribute to the memory of the Hon. Frank Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Proceedings
in the
House of Representatives



Proceedings in the House of Representatives

Monday, December 1, 1924.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Craven, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep regret and profound sorrow the announcement of the death of the Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. Tilson. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of deep sorrow that I announce to the House the death of the Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator of the United States from the State of Connecticut, who died on the 14th of October, 1924. I offer the following resolution, which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

The Clerk read (H. Res. 363) as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Hon. Frank Bosworth Brandegee, a Senator of the United States from the State of Connecticut.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased Senator.

The Speaker. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Longworth. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 55 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, December 2, 1924, at 12 o'clock noon.

Tuesday, January 20, 1925.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Craven, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Resolved, That as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased the business of the Senate be now suspended to enable his associates to pay tribute to his high character and distinguished public services.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. Tilson. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the present consideration of the resolution which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Speaker. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ordered, That Sunday, February 15, at 2 p. m., be set apart for addresses on the life, character, and public services of the Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

The question was taken, and the motion was agreed to.

FRANK B. BRANDEGEE

SUNDAY, February 15, 1925.

The House met at 2 o'clock p. m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James Shera Montgomery, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations, therefore we would close the outer doors of our beings and rest in the quiet of the inner chamber for a moment. By this silent effort we would renew our vows, declare our Christian faith, and ask Thee to direct the issues of our lives. Give us the trust that lifts skyward and sees beyond the sky line. We thank Thee that there is nothing in life, nothing in death, and nothing beyond the grave that is able to separate us from the Father and His love.

Bless unto us the memories of those who have left us, and may the service that they rendered to our country abide while time passes by. Do thou give unto us the faith and the courage to break through earth's cares, earth's burdens, and earth's sorrows, and wait patiently, work industriously, and rest sweetly until the dawning of the perfect day. Amen.

The Speaker. The Clerk will read the special order for to-day.

The Clerk read as follows:

On motion of Mr. Tilson, by unanimous consent—

Ordered, That Sunday, February 15, 1925, be set apart for memorial addresses on the life, character, and public services of the Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Treadway. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution which I send to the desk and ask to have read.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

The Clerk read (H. Res. 442) as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. Frank B. Brandegee, late a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House at the conclusion of these exercises shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send copies of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The Speaker. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Freeman assumed the chair as Speaker protempore.

Address by Representative Tilson

Of Connecticut

Mr. Speaker: As the senior Member of the delegation from Connecticut, it is fitting that I take the lead in these exercises commemorating the life and public service of our departed Senator and to outline the salient points of his life as they

relate to his public service.

The subject of these memorial exercises was born July 8, 1864, in New London, Conn. He was the son of Augustus Brandegee, who was a Member of the House of Representatives in the Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth Congresses. The records of father and son disclose a striking parallel in their careers up to the time the younger Brandegee went to the United States Senate. Both graduated at Yale; both served in the lower branch of the State legislature; both served as speaker of that body, and both served as Members of this House about the same length of time.

Frank Bosworth Brandegee was an undergraduate at Yale from 1881 to 1885 and graduated from Yale College in the latter year. During his college course he was an outstanding figure in his class, giving unmistakable evidence of the ability and commanding personality that characterized his

subsequent life.

He chose the law for a profession and prepared himself for a career at the bar for which he was preeminently fitted, both by native ability and training. Almost simultaneously with the beginning of the practice of the law, he served one term in the legislature as a representative from his native town. For the next 10 years he combined the practice of his profession with public service by serving as corporation counsel for the city of New London. After 10 years of this combined service, the lure of the strictly political arena finally proved irresistible, triumphing over his effort to devote himself to the practice of law, and drew him back to Capitol Hill at Hartford, where he was made speaker of the house, just 38 years after his father had filled the same position.

The public career of Senator Brandegee is typical of that of many successful public servants all over the country. He began by serving his own town and his State in positions of a more or less local character. In doing so, he demonstrated his fitness for public service and at the same time developed a liking for it. Meanwhile, friendships were formed and acquaintance widened with those who were doing things throughout the State.

On October 23, 1902, Charles A. Russell, for a long time an able and effective Member of this House from what was then the third Connecticut district, including New London, died. Young Brandegee was elected to succeed him and served here until May, 1905. In the light of subsequent events, wherein he later created another vacancy, there is a strange coincidence that his election both to the House and to the Senate was in each case to fill a vacancy caused by death.

On April 21, 1905, Orville H. Platt, for many years a great and distinguished Senator of the United States from Connecticut, died, and Representative Brandegee was elected to fill that vacancy. Having had four years' experience in Congress at the other end of the Capitol, Senator Brandegee did not come as a stranger to the work of the Senate, and so from the beginning took an active and valuable part in the deliberations of that body.

During the first few years of Senator Brandegee's career in the Senate he served on a number of small committees, but on none of the major committees. It was not lost time, however, for during these first years when not so much engrossed with committee work, as he was later on, he followed the work of the Senate on the floor and became thoroughly familiar with its rules and procedure. As he grew older in the service he came to be regarded as one of the best parliamentarians in that body. With his analytical mind he drove straight through the nonessentials to the heart of any controversy and was seldom in error as to his judgment on parliamentary questions.

In the Sixty-second Congress he first became a member of the Judiciary Committee, and here throughout the remainder of his service did some of his best work. He continued a member of this committee until the day of his death, becoming chairman of the committee after the death of that virile descendant of the vikings, Senator Knute Nelson, of Minnesota.

The work in the Senate on account of which Senator Brandegee became best and most widely known and for which he will be longest remembered was in connection with foreign affairs.

It was in the Sixty-fourth Congress that he became a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, of which he continued a member until the time of his death. He was strong in his convictions that the United States should not enter the League of Nations upon any terms whatsoever. He took this position early in the controversy, when the number of those in the Senate who agreed with him was small indeed. The members of this little group in the Senate, who took this position early, were contemptuously called the "Irreconcilables." Their number grew, however, rather than diminished. Here, again, the incisive, analytical mind of Senator Brandegee was of inestimable value to the cause he so zealously espoused.

While the unusual ability of Senator Brandegee was generally recognized and he had a host of political as well as social friends, he was never what would be called a popular political idol. His methods were too direct. If he realized at first that something could not be done, he did not hesitate to say so at once. He was honest and fair about it, but many people thought it was because he took little interest or did not wish to do it. One of his strongest qualities in public affairs was his disposition and invariable rule to keep his word when given. He was slow to promise, but his word once given, performance in full measure was sure

to follow.

Senator Brandegee was a brilliant conversationalist. Few men in Washington or elsewhere could compare with him as an after-dinner smoking-room companion. He was a social favorite in Washington, and probably no one was more widely entertained socially than he was for a considerable number of years during the period just prior to our entry into the World War. He never married.

On October 14, 1924, after carefully arranging a few details for the safety and benefit of others in his household, he calmly laid down his life as if it

had been a ready-to-be cast-off garment.

The tragedy of his passing was and is still a mystery as impossible of solution as death itself. There is no comprehensible explanation for it so far as the world knows. The only one who could explain it has gone beyond the reach of messages. Those who knew him best feel that there was an explanation, though known only to himself, and that somehow, or in some way, it squared with his philosophy of life.

The record of Senator Brandegee's public services has been written. It is one of which any true American might feel proud, whether one agrees with his ideas or not. No one can fail to admire his great ability and no one should fail to give him credit for a life of faithful, honorable public service. Connecticut honors him as one of her most distinguished sons. Her people will long cherish his memory as that of an able, honest, faithful public servant.

Mr. Tilson assumed the chair as Speaker protempore.

Address by Representative Freeman

Of Connecticut

Mr. Speaker: Even if I spoke "with the tongues of men and of angels" I would find it difficult to voice a true appreciation of the character and life work of the late distinguished Senator from Connecticut, Frank Bosworth Brandegee.

But the opportunity afforded by this memorial session, to inscribe in our records permanently a loving and sympathetic tribute to one whose memory we shall always cherish, I undertake with something like the sorrowing emotion of a younger brother. You must realize that we of his own home town not only lament but regret profoundly his untimely death. We knew him and we loved him, we were proud of him, we ever rejoiced to honor him, conscious at all times that thus we honored ourselves.

When in 1902 we, of the second congressional district in Connecticut, sent Senator Brandegee here to represent us in this branch of our National Government, we sent you our best. As many of you perhaps know, in all of the smaller cities and towns of old New England, from colonial times down to our own, one family at least stands out as closer kin to royalty—so to speak—than all others. Their virtues and their attainments attest their real worth. In New London, one of the oldest settlements in New England, the Brandegee family had occupied for several generations just

such an enviable position. Its members were not only refined and cultured, but able and public-spirited as well. They enjoyed the esteem and respectful consideration of their fellow townsmen. Thus you may visualize the happy environment to which Senator Brandegee was born. From birth he was one of the fortunate of earth and seemed blessed with every good gift. During his youth he was subjected to careful and wise training by devoted parents, and the fruit of this training throughout his whole life never failed to reflect aught but credit and honor to them.

His father, Hon. Augustus Brandegee, Yale graduate, a most distinguished lawyer, a brilliant wit, was showered with political honors by both city and State. He, too, was elected a Member of this House, serving during the closing years of the Civil War. It so happened that through successive bereavements the father came to set great store by his youngest son, the late Senator. So nobly did this son respond and strive in all ways to fulfill every wish and ambition the father's heart held for him, that the elder man was forced to acknowledge at times that he idolized this son.

While possessed of marked intellectual ability, Senator Brandegee's interests at Yale, where he was graduated in the class of 1885, were not exclusively nor even chiefly scholastic. Because of his charming personality he was one of the most popular men of his class, and these years found him nothing loath to giving crew and team, glee club, and a host of friends their full share of his time. A year

of travel in Europe followed graduation. Admission to the bar in 1888 and a few years of successful practice were quickly followed by political preferment in city and State, almost identical with that

bestowed upon the elder Brandegee.

In 1902, at 38 years of age, with ideal training and experience for a splendid career here in Washington, Senator Brandegee was elected to membership in this House. But before winning his spurs here, he was advanced, in May, 1905, to the Senate. How well his work there fulfilled the promise of his young manhood his manifold labors for a score of years on some of the most important committees bear most eloquent witness.

The Appalachian Mountain Reservation was established while Senator Brandegee was chairman of the Committee on Forest Reservation. While he was serving in a like capacity on the Interoceanic Canals Committee, the Panama Canal was building. As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, where his knowledge and judgment carried not only great respect but also strong influence, he allowed his whole mind to be absorbed with the study of the League of Nations question; and as chairman of the important Judiciary Committee he constantly gave evidence of marked ability and legal acumen.

As we of course well realize, the work on such varied committees was arduous and exacting, especially for one never content with half knowledge. Senator Brandegee must delve to the very heart of any important matter under consideration, for only then would he allow himself to form a

fixed judgment in regard thereto. When his course was once determined, his colleagues knew that, as far as he was concerned, it met with the approval of "both head and heart, and both in earnest."

Duty was always a reality with Senator Brandegee and a most potent one. Any and all of his speeches on the floor of the Senate, infrequent though they were, might have had a Catonian ending, but in place of "Carthago delenda est," we should have heard, "I have done what I thought This explains the intensity of his my duty." opposition to the entrance of the United States into the League of Nations. All his spirit and his energy were aroused to action in that crisis of our history. To him the place of the United States of America was among the hilltops of peace, lofty and serene, like a daughter of the stars, in company with a host of others if may be, but alone if necessity compels, breathing a spirit of friendliness and sympathy and helpfulness to all other nations, but never for a moment agreeing to descend and dwell in the European plains of distrust and greed and dissensions.

Senator Brandegee's spirit was one that loved to be unhampered, unfettered, in any way. When ill health drew one cordon close until it hurt, and loss of fortune still another, he felt that he had run his course, and that with no near relatives to grieve he might seek the rest his soul longed for. Despite his charm of personality and the scintillating play of wit which drew so many to him, there were depths in his nature that were never plumbed, reserves that no friend ever fathomed.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

We can well believe that in the solitude and loneliness of long days and nights during the recess, alone in his beautiful home, he—thinker as he was—oft pondered that thought, "If a man die shall he live again?"

Senator Brandegee was such a tower of strength to others that it is hard to believe that he is gone and another stands in his place. But since he willed it so, we must, while lamenting his loss, pray that only men as courageous, as intellectual, and as incorruptible as he was may be found serving the Nation. Connecticut may well be proud of the public career of her loyal son.

Address by Representative Fenn

Of Connecticut

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House: I can add but little to what has been said by my colleagues in relation to the life, character, and attainments of Frank B. Brandegee, late Senator from my State, who laid aside the burdens of this life on the 14th day of October last. My acquaintance and friendship with him, both personal and political, extended over a period of many years, from the time of his graduation from Yale in the class of 1885 until his death at his home in the city of Washington last autumn. Being members of the same college fraternity, in the earlier years our relationship was such as characterizes such an association.

Born in New London in 1864, Senator Brandegee was brought up in an atmosphere of statesmanship and the practice of the law. His father, Augustus H. Brandegee, was a leader of the bar in southeastern Connecticut for many years; was a founder of the Republican Party in the State; speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives in 1861, being chosen for that office by the Republican majority, and represented the old third Connecticut district in this House in the Thirty-eighth and Thirty-ninth Congresses, during the years 1863–1867. Augustus Brandegee was a man of sterling character, uncompromising in his opinions and

views, of exceptional ability in maintaining his positions, and these qualities were to a noteworthy degree transmitted to his son.

Brought up in such surroundings, it was anticipated that the son would take a noteworthy place in the affairs of his State and the Nation, and the anticipation was not unfulfilled. Soon after his graduation from college and the usual courses in law, he engaged in the practice of his profession in his native city. He was soon, however, called into public life by his fellow citizens of New London. and in 1897 was elected to represent them in the lower house of the Connecticut General Assembly. He was reelected two years later and was chosen speaker of the house, and served in this capacity during the session of 1899. Even as a young man he displayed in the Connecticut Legislature that marked ability which in later years drew attention to him in this House and in the Senate. In October, 1902, by the death of the Hon. Charles Addison Russell, of Killingly, for many years a leading Member of this House, a vacancy occurred in the second Connecticut district, and Mr. Brandegee was elected to fill the vacancy in the Fifty-seventh Congress. He was reelected to the Fifty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Congresses. His service in the House of Representatives, although confined to but little more than two terms, was such as to cause him to be looked upon as a leader.

In April, 1905, Orville H. Platt, senior Senator from Connecticut, died, and, in accordance with the constitutional provision at that time, it became necessary for the State legislature to elect his successor. The legislature was in session and, as the Republicans were in control, the action of the caucus of that party was equivalent to an election.

The Republican caucus met in the chamber of the house of representatives in the Connecticut State Capitol at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of the day designated. There were several candidates for the honor of representing the State in the Senate of the United States. Many ballots were taken, and at about 2 o'clock of the morning of the day following Mr. Brandegee received the requisite majority, and a day or two afterwards, May 9, the choice of the caucus was ratified by the legislature and Representative Brandegee became Senator Brandegee. It is a coincidence that the elections of Mr. Brandegee to both branches of Congress were due to the deaths of his predecessors.

During his long service in the Senate Mr. Brandegee became one of its leaders. Never given to long speeches, he was nevertheless ready in debate and able to cope successfully with any adversary on the floor. His method in debate was sharp and incisive, and his clear mind led him directly to the substance of any given measure. His theory and practice in legislation was founded on the Constitution of the United States, and I have been told by his colleagues in the Judiciary Committee of the Senate that when a proposition was before them his first question would be: "Does it conform to the provisions of the Constitution?" If he was not convinced on this point, his approval would be withheld. He was also thoroughly American in his actions and sentiments.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

Connecticut, from the founding of the Republic, has furnished many eminent statesmen and law-givers. In the list the name of Frank B. Brandegee will have a high place.

The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to the resolution heretofore adopted, the House will now stand adjourned.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 10 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Monday, February 16, 1925, at 12 o'clock noon.

